

Agenda Item: Item 1
Meeting Date: July 17, 2007

Lead Scientist Report

1. Scientific Coordination

A. We have established the duties and reporting relationship for the IEP lead scientist with the IEP coordinators. The proposal will now go to the agency directors for approval, after which we can proceed to look for a candidate for the lead scientist.

B. The Bay-Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) group has adopted the lead scientist approach to organizing the scientific advice they need to complete the NCCP/HCP process. Denise Reed has been appointed lead scientist and is actively working with us to ensure a smooth flow of information from BDCP to the other planning activities in the Delta.

C. DRMS has produced its Phase 1 report and has held a public meeting to present its major conclusions. We are proceeding to conduct our review. Comments from the review panel are to be to Johnnie Moore by July 30 and the final review product is to be completed by August 15. We had thought to have Johnnie make a presentation to the Vision Task Force at their August meeting but it has not been possible to schedule that.

D. We are working with the Blue Ribbon Task Force for Delta Vision to ensure that they have the scientific information they need and that there is a smooth flow of information between the Task Force and the other science based processes (BDCP, DRMS, IEP). We have agreed to manage an expert based assessment process for visions as they come available and have begun assembling a team to undertake the assessments. The ISB has been asked to comment on the proposed assessment approach prepared by the Lead Scientist.

Requested ISB Action: Comment on assessment approach. Participation by some ISB members on the assessment team.

E. Planning is underway for phase 2 of performance measure development. We need to define the involvement of ISB liaisons. We are also working with Sue Garrett-Dukes to organize a retreat to discuss roles in phase 2.

Requested ISB Action: Performance measure liaisons to work with Elizabeth to define future ISB role.

2. Science Communication

A. Draft chapters of about 60% of the State of Science report have been completed and are being edited. The editorial board met in conference call on July 9 and suggested some reorganization of chapters and content. Jana Machula, who has been acting as executive editor for the report is leaving in early August. Darcy Jones will be taking over from Jana to complete this important task.

B. The Lead Scientist has taken on the task of revamping the ecosystem context memo for the Blue Ribbon Task Force. He will make a presentation to the Task Force about ecosystem principles at their meeting on July 19.

Requested ISB Action: Identify 3 members who can serve as reviewers for the draft document when it is completed. Quick turn around will be required.

C. We continue to feed material to the Task Force concerning drinking water quality and we are trying to arrange for our special advisor on water quality, Dr. Philip Singer, to prepare an op-ed piece on drinking water quality and to speak to water quality issues at one of their meetings. Drinking water quality is on the agenda for the Task Force meeting on July 20 and we will have an opportunity for additional input at that time.

D. Our report on the Variable Delta workshop is completed and distributed to participants for comment. When revised, it will be distributed to the Task Force and made available on our web. We are currently planning for two more workshops to be held before the end of August, one that explores the scientific issues raised by building a peripheral canal and a second that explores the science of environmental water quality in the Delta. Our process for developing these workshops is, first, to hold a small meeting of knowledgeable scientists to brainstorm about the issues and to use the results of that meeting to develop the agenda for the public workshop. The brainstorming meeting helps to get the scientists thinking about the issues and, we feel, makes the public workshop more effective.

E. We continue to work to improve Science News and the on-line journal. We are also starting to reactivate Science in Action, pamphlets that communicate recent research finding to decision makers and the public. A report by Brian Bergamachi and Roger Fujii on dissolved organic carbon and disinfectant by-products and a

report by Marvin-DiPasquale and other authors on mercury methylation will be included in our first Science in Action products.

F. A revised version of the End of Stage One report will be distributed to agencies in a day or so. We will share it with ISB as soon as it is available.

Requested ISB Action: Identify 3-4 members who would be willing to review the report in detail.

3. Science Support

A. We have begun putting together materials for the 2007 PSP in expectation that our budget will be approved for at least \$10 million in research and grant funds. In addition, we may have available up to \$2 million a year over the next 3 years for research targeted at seismic risk and levee integrity issues provided by the seismic safety commission. We are developing topics for the new PSP. These are largely an update of the topics used in the 2006 PSP but adjusted to deal more with drinking water issues, and likely issues around strategic planning for vision implementation. Topics in relation to seismic safety are still being researched. All topics will be vetted by a topic selection panel committee (including stakeholders, agency reps, ISB members and other academics) before final topics are established.

B. The Lead Scientist chaired a meeting at UCSC Sea Grant offices on July 12 to review the candidates for this year's science fellows. Six candidates and their proposals (3 post-doctoral, 3 pre-doctoral) were deemed worthy of support although several will be asked to provide additional detail on aspects of their proposals before funding is confirmed. After committing funding to this year's fellows we will have about \$1.6 million available for a final round of fellowships next year. We are beginning discussions with Sea Grant about how to extend the program.

Program Contact:

Michael Healey
Lead Scientist
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
mhealey@calwater.ca.gov

Phone: (916) 445-0463